

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01789 242215Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 101

S E C R E T BOGOTA 1789

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER: SITREP 16

1. THE LATEST EDITION OF THE RESPECTABLE COLOMBIAN MAGAZINE
"CROMOS", WHICH APPEARED TODAY, CARRIES AN ARTICLE ON THE FARC RAID
AT LA MACARENA IN WHICH STARR WAS KIDNAPPED. THE MAGAZINE SENT
JOURNALISTS TO THE SCENE AND THE RTICLE IS BASED ON INTERVIEWS.

2. AMONG THOSE INTERVIEWED WAS A DRIVER FOR INDERENA NAMED
OVIDIO SAENZ WHO GAVE A VERSION OF THE INITIAL
EXCHANGE BETWEEN STARR AND THE FARC THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT
PROVIDED US BY JUDGE PADILLA (SITREP 9, BOGOTA 15552). ACCORDING
TO SAENZ, WHEN ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS ASKED STARR WHO WAS RESPONS-
BLE FOR HIM, STARR (APPARENTLY NOT UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION)
REPLIED: "NE ME HA LLEGADO EL GIRO", MEANING THAT
HIS CHECK OR MONEY ORDER HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED. ACCORDING TO
SAENZ, WHEN THE GUERRILLAS PRESSED FOR AN ANSWER TO THEIR QUESTION,
IT WAS JUDGE PADILLA WHO SAID: "HE IS A SCIENTIST, A NATURALIST
WITH THE PEACE CORPS AND THE EMBASSY OF THE US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
HIM." THE GUERRILLAS THEN TOLD STARR TO PACK AND GET MOVING AND
TOLD HIM THAT THE WAY WOULD BE LONG AND VERY WINDING. SAENZ ADDED
THAT EVERYONE THERE WAS TREATED WELL BY THE GUERRILLAS.
SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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